



SENATOR RUNNER'S WEEK IN REVIEW

A WEEKLY REVIEW THAT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AND UP-TO-DATE



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State Budget Stalled -- Republicans Refuse to Support Government Paid Health Insurance for Illegal Aliens

This week, the Democrats in the Legislature inserted a last minute appropriation to increase up to \$225 million in government paid health insurance for illegal immigrants. At the same time, they slashed the Governor's public safety proposals.

I will not support a budget that spends Californians hard-earned tax dollars on government paid health insurance for illegal aliens. There is no way we should be supporting a proposal to provide better health benefits to illegal immigrants than some California citizens have. This type of proposal will only encourage more illegal immigrants to come to California. The proposal the Democrats are demanding would add \$22.8 million for illegal immigrant health insurance this year, grow to an estimated \$175 million in 2007-08 and then to \$225 million in 2008-09.

This is exactly the wrong priority to place on the budget. We are not talking about compassionate care for people; we are talking about having our tax dollars used to provide health insurance for illegal immigrants. There is absolutely no way I will support such a proposal.

If this proposal was not bad enough, the Democrats slashed an estimated \$150 million from the Governor's public safety budget proposals. So, we are prioritizing services for illegal immigrants while not supporting law enforcement – this is absolutely the wrong priorities for the State of California.

Specifically, the legislative Democrats rejected in the joint budget conference committee.

COPS (Citizens' Option for Public Safety) - \$21.3 million Rejected - These programs provide essential monetary assistance (minimum \$100,000 grants) to frontline law enforcement agencies such as county sheriffs, police departments and district attorneys. Further, cities and counties depend on these law enforcement programs to help keep their communities safe.

SAFE Teams (Sexual Assault Felony Enforcement Task Forces) - \$6 million Rejected - These task forces are vital in reducing violent sexual offenses. SAFE Teams take a proactive

News of the Week

[Budget Stalled – Republicans Won't Support Budget to Pay for Health Insurance Coverage for Illegal Immigrants](#)

[Speaker Warns LA Mayor His LAUSD Takeover Proposal is in Jeopardy](#)

[High Speed Rail Vote Likely in 2008](#)

[Necrophilia Bill Dies in the Assembly](#)

[Governor Tells of His Love of the Flag](#)

[High Desert Corridor Task Force Created](#)

[Debra Saunders Column: More Bad Science](#)

[San Francisco Proposes \\$2 million To Provide Legal Aid and Services to Illegal Immigrants](#)

approach to surveillance and arrest of habitual sex offenders. In partnership with the FBI, SAFE Teams also investigate sexual crimes involving the Internet.

Local Detention Facility Funds - \$40 million Rejected - The Governor's booking fee compromise resolves longstanding conflicts regarding booking fees. The proposed funding for local detention facilities backfills any county losses from booking fees and provides much-needed local jail funding to relieve the pressure on overcrowded local jails.

Vertical Prosecution Block Grants – \$10.1 million Rejected - Grants to local district attorneys to ensure consistency and proficiency in cases by allowing district attorneys to assign prosecutors to certain types of cases and crimes and follow cases through the judicial process. This program was cut in previous budgets and the Governor's May Revise would have restored this program to its previous funding level.

Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) - \$21.3 million Rejected - Approximately 210,000 California youths are arrested annually. Programs such as those funded by the JJCPA can help provide guidance and mentorship for these youths and help to reduce youth crime rates.

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant Program - \$50 million Rejected - Mentally ill individuals make up approximately 11% of the California jail population, though 70% of previously incarcerated mentally ill individuals commit new crimes. These grants provide funding for various programs designed to reduce crime and criminal justice costs associated with mentally ill offenders.

While it is important to pass a budget on time, it is also important to pass a responsible budget. I will continue to advocate for a budget that pays down the deficit, does not increase taxes, supports law enforcement and does not support illegal immigration.

**If you would like to contact Senator Runner, please click
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